



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE NO.: JCB-200213380
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DATE: May 16, 2003
EXPIRATION DATE: June 13, 2003

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish a wetland mitigation bank. In accordance with Federal Guidance for the Establishment, Use and Operation of Mitigation Banks, as published in the Tuesday, November 28, 1995, Federal Register, Vol 60, No. 228, a bottomland hardwood mitigation bank is proposed as a means to meet the requirements for compensatory mitigation for future and as yet unknown wetland losses, which may be permitted by the DA under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Name of Bank Sponsor:

JHTH Properties, L.L.C.
Post Office Box 54063
Jackson, Mississippi 39288-4063

Location of Work: Section 2, T9N-R6E, latitude 32°39'34.1684", longitude 89°39'20.3673", within the Pearl River drainage basin, Leake County, near Carthage, Mississippi.

Description: (See enclosed map.)

The bank sponsor proposes to develop a wetland mitigation bank by restoring 145 acres of degraded wetlands. The site is suitable for restoration to bottomland hardwoods. There may be potential for stream restoration.

Baseline Conditions/ Current Land Use/ Proposed Actions: The north edge of the site is a few hundred feet from the Pearl River with a small bank of Pearl River Valley Water Supply land separating the site from the river. Varied woodlands or sloughs border the remainder of the property. Soils on the site are Type 4 (Rosebloom and Ariel), Type 67 (Rosebloom Silt Loam) situated on a low terrace and floodplain. The site was previously approved by the Natural Resource Conservation Service for the

approved by the Natural Resource Conservation Service for the Conservation Reserve Program, but is not currently enrolled. The site is crossed by several drains which would be plugged, if necessary, to improve existing wetland hydrology. The existing field roads are 12 feet wide and would be incorporated within the 12-foot spacing of the seedlings. No acreage would be removed from the bank due to construction of additional roads.

The sponsor would restore 138 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands and a 7-acre cypress slough. Twenty-two acres have been planted in pine trees and would be bush-hogged for site preparation. The area would be planted with Willow Oak, Shumard Oak, Overcup Oak, Red Oak, Swamp Chestnut, Water Oak, Cypress, Tupelo Gum and Bitter Pecan as recommended by a registered forester. Seedlings would be planted in 12- by 12-foot spacings of 302 seedlings per acre, with a plan for the sponsor to later thin the trees as they grow, to a random 20- by 20-foot spacing to allow for growth. The sponsor would consider interplanting with cottonwood to enhance early growth of the hardwood species.

A 37-acre stand of existing bottomland hardwoods would be enhanced where needed according to recommendations from a registered forester.

The 7-acre slough would be planted with Cypress and Tupelo Gum as recommended by a registered forester.

During the 30-day review period beginning with this notice, the Corps will assemble a Mitigation Bank Review Team (MBRT) composed of representatives of Federal and state agencies. The MBRT will meet periodically to assist in the development of the Mitigation Bank Agreement for the proposed bank.

Service Area: The service area would be demarcated by the United States Geologic Survey as hydrologic unit codes 03180001, 03180002, and 03180003 within the Pearl River Basin (031800). Use of this mitigation bank to mitigate for projects within hydrologic unit code 03180003 would be limited to the portion of the hydrologic unit that is identified as Southeastern Plains and Hills habitat. As defined in the Charleston Method for determining compensatory mitigation, impacts in the hydrologic unit code 03180001 and 03180002 would be defined as occurring in Zone 1 and impacts in hydrologic unit code 03180003 would be defined as occurring in Zone 3.

The prospectus, which outlines the conceptual plan for this bank, is available for review at the Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers at the address given below.

Comments on this proposed mitigation bank may be provided to the Corps at the address below. Comments should be received no later than the expiration date of this public notice.

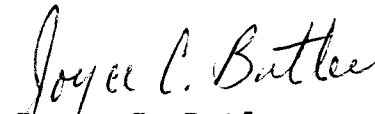
Please provide comments to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District

ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F

4155 Clay Street

Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3485


Joyce C. Butler
Acting Team Leader
Evaluation Section

